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Reports by regional entities and thematic groups

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on the regional and thematic activities and achievements of the six entities referred to below. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report.

Summary of the report

The report provides information on the regional and thematic activities and achievements of the following six entities: the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas; the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology of the Economic Commission for Africa; the Preparatory Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information for Europe; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States; and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies.

In its report, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific describes the activities it has undertaken since the Nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, convened in Bangkok from 29 October to 1 November 2012. The Regional Committee was renamed during that time, and three new working groups were established on: (a) a geodetic reference framework for

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sustainable development; (b) data sharing and integration for disaster management; and (c) place-based information management for economic growth. The Regional Committee also highlights its coordinating efforts with the Committee of Experts and covers the priority issues and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region that should be discussed and addressed in the global context.

In its report, the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas describes the activities and achievements of its working group, based on its 2009-2013 workplan. It also provides an overview of the progress of work under the following seven thematic areas: (a) institutional capacity-building; (b) planning, standards and technical specifications; (c) best practices and guidelines for the development of spatial data infrastructures; (d) innovations in national geospatial information authorities; (e) knowledge gathering on topics relevant to spatial data infrastructures for the region; (f) assessment of the status of developments in spatial data infrastructures in the Americas; and (g) technological means for access to and dissemination of geospatial data.

In its report, the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology of the Economic Commission for Africa describes actions taken as follow-up to the Addis Ababa Declaration on Geospatial Information Management and other activities considered as being of interest to Member States and stakeholders. The activities focused on policy issues: technical issues; capacity-building; and international cooperation and liaison efforts. In particular, mention is made of an expert group meeting that was held to set the stage for preparing a framework on facilitating the legal and regulatory aspects of geospatial information utilization in Africa.

In its report, the Preparatory Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information for Europe describes the preliminary steps taken towards the creation of a regional committee of United Nations global geospatial information for Europe. The Preparatory Committee comprises representatives of Member States, European Union institutions and existing European umbrella organizations having a specific interest in the subject. It is the intention of the Preparatory Committee to work with Member States towards the creation of a regional committee in the second quarter of 2014.

In its report, submitted on behalf of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) describes the outcomes of a seminar on regional cooperation in geospatial information management that was held in Doha, Qatar, on 7 February 2013, on the margins of the second High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management. At the seminar, Member States agreed on and endorsed the need to establish a regional committee on global geospatial information management, with support from the ESCWA secretariat and to discuss and advance the regional interests of the Committee of Experts. It also describes the process to be adopted towards establishment of the Regional Committee and the plans for future activities in the region.

In its report, the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies describes the recent activities of its member organizations, including their recent advances in technologies, methodologies and standards. It also describes the future activities of Joint Board member organizations in supporting and developing the needed skills and information resources required to facilitate the timely and efficient collection, management, assessment, monitoring, representation and provision of global geospatial information for the United Nations global geospatial information management community.